House Unit Picks Counsel For JFK Probe

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Richard A. Sprague, a Philadelphia attorney who helped prosecute the Joseph Yablonski murder case, was named today as acting counsel of the House Select Committee looking into the assassinations of John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr.

Rep. Thomas N. Downing, D-Va., chairman of the panel, said Sprague would serve as acting counsel and director of the committee until it meets on Nov. 15 to make the proposed appointment permanent.

Downing pushed for creating the panel until the House finally voted to set it up as one of the final acts before Congress adjourned.

Downing contends sufficient evidence has surfaced to convince him "there was a conspiracy" to commit the assassination.

The King murder was included in the inquiry at the insistence of many black Congress members.

Sprague was the first assistant district attorney of Philadelphia county when he was special assistant to the federal prosecution of W. A. "Tony" Boyle, former United Mine Workers president who was convicted of conspiracy in the murder of Yablonski and his family.